

Downtown Walking Tour

Cultural Lifeline: Downtown to Belltown

Welcome to downtown Seattle, the city's art museum without walls. Since the early 1970s, government and private building owners have both participated in the tradition of commissioning and placing art in public spaces.

Beginning with the creation of the landmark percent-for-art legislation, public art began appearing in plazas, on hatch covers and

tree grates and displayed in the lobbies and public buildings. Walking from one end of downtown to the other, a visitor can enjoy more than 200 diverse artworks. They range from art incorporated into the design of Metro's bus tunnel, to *Hammering Man* in the plaza of the Seattle Art Museum, to a spectacular collection of glass art in the City Center Building. There are attention-grabbing works by artists of international

renown and artworks serving far more humble functions—artist-designed benches, security fences and building elements.

We hope that as you explore Seattle you will take this art guide with you. We in Seattle are proud of our public art and hope you will also enjoy it.

Length:
3 miles

Difficulty:
2, moderate



Seattle Arts
Commission

Cultural Lifeline

Downtown to Belltown

This cultural trail starts at an art museum, winds past corporate facilities and runs through a neighborhood hosting one of the first contemporary public artworks in Seattle. A relatively flat three-mile walk, this tour includes potential rest stops at any of the bistros, shops and coffee carts along the way.

Begin at the Seattle Art Museum's western plaza:

- 1 Jonathan Borofsky, *Hammering Man*, 1992**, hollow fabricated steel.

Head south on 1st Avenue to the Federal Building. Between Madison and Marion Streets, note:

- 2 Philip McCracken, *Freedom*, 1976**, bronze

Walk up Marion Street to Second Avenue, or take the elevator inside the First Avenue entrance of the Exchange Building. This art deco facility elegantly houses several King County government functions and other businesses.

- 3** The stunning 4th Floor lobby (at the Second Avenue entrance) is faced with Italian black and gold marble. The Exchange Building is a listed Seattle Historic Landmark, and was built in 1925 by architect John Graham Sr.

Exit to Second Avenue and head north. At your feet on the street, note the tree grates and hatch covers.

- 4 Garth Edwards, Nathan Jackson, Anne Knight, *Hatchcovers*, 1975–87**, cast iron.

On 2nd Avenue, between Marion and Madison, note:

- 5 Isamu Noguchi, *Landscape of Time*, 1975**, pink granite.

Continue up 2nd Avenue towards the Art Museum. Benaroya Hall has several exterior artworks on 2nd including:

- 6 Erin Shie Palmer, *Temple of Music*, 1998**, Metro bus tunnel entrance design. Enter to explore the **Bus Tunnel**:

- 7 Murase Associates, *The Garden of Remembrance*, 1998**, plaza memorial.

Continue up 2nd Avenue into Belltown. Note the clocks, benches and cast concrete boards set into the sidewalks. Text, legible on several boards, references the business history of the area.

- 8 Kurt Kiefer, *Second Avenue Project*, 1996**, design, concrete, mixed media.

At Blanchard, turn right one block to 3rd Avenue, then continue north to Bell Street. At Regrade Park, note:

- 9 Lloyd Hamrol, *Gyro Jack*, 1979**, concrete.

- 10 Richard Beyer, *Three Dogs*, 1978**, sandstone.

Walk down Bell Street to First Avenue. The benches, trees and sidewalk treatment changes regularly. This flexible site was a collaboration of artists and landscape architects then living in the area, stretching from Denny Way (8 blocks to the north) down to Virginia Street.

- 11 Jack Mackie, Lewis "Buster" Simpson, Deborah and Paul Rhinehart, *First Avenue Project*, 1986–91**, mixed media.

Return to downtown Seattle along First Avenue. Between Union and University note:

- 12** Street level window of *The Seattle Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery*. Changing displays by regional artists.

A Bus Tunnel Side-Tour

The Metro Bus Tunnel showcases outstanding public artworks throughout the 5 underground stations. The tunnel is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Buses are free in the tunnel. The stations from north to south, with their street address and artists:

Convention Place

9th Avenue and Pine Street
Alice Adams, Jack Makie, and others

Westlake Station

Pine Street between 4th and 5th
Fay Jones, Gene Gentry McMahon, Roger Shimomura, Kate Ericson & Mel Ziegler, and Vicki Scuri

University Street Station

3rd Avenue and University
Bill Bell and Robert Teeple

Pioneer Square Station

3rd Avenue between James and Yesler
Kate Ericson & Mel Ziegler, and Garth Edwards